

Appln No. 09/838,491

Amdt date October 6, 2005

Reply to Office action of July 6, 2005

Remarks

The title has been changed to "Technique for Accessing Location-Dependent Information Sources in a Vehicle," which applicant believes is more descriptive of the claimed invention.

The Examiner rejected claims 21-58 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly obvious over the Schwob patent in view of the Jurgen article. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 21 has been amended to improve its form.

The claimed invention is directed to a technique for providing, in a vehicle, information from information sources outside the vehicle, e.g., entertainment programs broadcast from radio stations. Illustratively, the radio stations are represented by their respective icons and frequencies on a display in the vehicle. The user may select one of the icons representing the station to which he/she wants to listen. However, the geographic coverage of a radio station may be limited. As the vehicle travels beyond the coverage, the broadcast from the station may become too weak to receive. In accordance with the invention, radio stations are grouped according to geographic areas. The radio stations in each group provide relatively good reception in the geographic area associated with the group. In implementation, representations of the radio stations are stored in a memory of the inventive system according to the geographic areas associated with the radio stations. These geographic areas may be identified by their global positioning system (GPS) coordinates. In operation, the inventive system presents a group of representations of radio stations on a display for selection

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which are associated with the geographic area which the vehicle is in. The inventive system determines whether the current location of the vehicle is within a predetermined range of a second geographic area. If it is, a second group of representations of radio stations associated with the second geographic area are retrieved from the memory and presented on the display for selection, instead. See page 42, line 10 et seq. of the specification, Fig. 18.

Schwob discloses a broadcast receiver. As admitted by the Examiner on page 2 of the Office Action, Schwob at a minimum fails to teach a processor for "determining whether the vehicle is within a predetermined distance from a second location, a second set of indicators indicating a second group of information sources, which is associated with the second location, being provided when it is determined that the vehicle is within the predetermined distance from the second location," as claim 21 recites.

Jurgen describes a technique for digital audio broadcast (DAB), and discloses the following two scenarios in which such a technique is applied:

[A] DAB car radio will monitor signal strengths and switch automatically from a fading signal to a stronger one. If the driver selects the broadcasting station CBS, for example, the radio will make use of CBS signals from any transmitter along that broadcaster's network, regardless of the exact frequency in the coverage area the driver happens to be in.

If a signal from one transmitter disappears suddenly, as is common with

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digital signals, the radio will then retune itself...to receive signals from another CBS transmitter down the pike....

In another scenario, a driver might be more concerned about the type of programming he receives, rather than maintaining "brand loyalty" to one network. If the driver selects "Oldies," the radio will automatically switch from one station broadcasting that type of programming to another doing the same.

Jurgen at page 54 (emphasis added).

Despite the Examiner's assertion, neither does Jurgen teach or suggest the above claim limitations "determining whether the vehicle is within a predetermined distance from a second location," and providing "a second set of indicators indicating a second group of information sources" for selection "when it is determined that the vehicle is within the predetermined distance from the second location." In fact, Jurgen teaches away from the claimed invention by automatically switching from one transmitter (or station) whose signal is fading to another transmitter (or station) having a stronger signal, thereby obviating the need of providing for selection "a second set of indicators indicating a second group of information sources," associated with a second location "when it is determined that the vehicle is within the predetermined distance from the second location," as claims 21 and 41 recite. As such, claims 21 and 41, together with their dependent claims, are patentable over Schwob in view of Jurgen.

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Claims 30-40 and 49-58 have been cancelled, rendering the Examiner's rejection of these claims moot.


Claims 59-62, dependent on either claim 21 or 41, have been added, which are drawn to different aspects of the invention.

In view of the foregoing, each of claims 21-29, 41-48 and 59-62 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of these claims is requested and allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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